



A SELECTION OF TITLES  
FROM JAPAN

LONDON  
BOOK FAIR  
2026

**Vicki Satlow Literary Agency**

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Via Cenisio 16 - 20154 Milano (Italy)



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# HIDEHIRO INAGAKI

## PLANTS THAT SHAPED WORLD HISTORY

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**What if plants — not people — were the true drivers of civilization?  
In this revelatory work, Hidehiro Inagaki re-examines world history through a  
radical and illuminating lens: the plant kingdom.**



Would you believe that plants completely transformed humanity's 10,000-year history? We think we know human history, but what if plants were secretly at its evolutionary core?

Wherever humankind has progressed, plants have followed or rather led. By cultivating plants, humanity began agriculture, and that technology gave birth to civilization. Plants generated wealth, and people were tossed about by the very plants that produced that wealth. As populations grew, vast amounts of crops were needed. Cultivating crops created food and riches, which eventually gave rise to nations — and from those nations, great powers emerged.

#### NON FICTION

Publisher: PHP Research  
Institute  
Publication: 2018  
Pages: 224

People fought one another to seize wealth, and plants even became the triggers of war. Those who mastered plants seized global supremacy. History has always depended on plants. And therefore human history is also the history of plants. The result is a sweeping narrative that reframes how we understand power, progress, conflict, and survival.

Reading this book will reveal a new perspective and brilliant insights into human history—how seemingly immobile plants passionately stirred and propelled human desires, shaping our world.

Readers will gain new perspectives and excellent insights into human history, created by plants that are ostensibly motionless, but passionately stimulate and drive human desires.

**Chapter 1** Wheat: Civilization was born from a single seed

**Chapter 2** Rice: Rice culture created “Japan”

**Chapter 3** Pepper: The black gold that Europe envied

**Chapter 4** Capsicum: Columbus’ agony and the enthusiasm of Asia

**Chapter 5** Potatoes: The Devil’s Plant That Created the Great Power of America

**Chapter 6** Tomatoes: The Too Red Fruit That Changed the World’s Food

**Chapter 7** Cotton: “Plants That Grew Sheep” and the Industrial Revolution

**Chapter 8** Cha, The Opium Wars and the Magic of Caffeine

**Chapter 9** Sugarcane The sweet tastethat misled mankind

**Chapter 10** Soybeans: From military food in the Sengoku period to the New World

**Chapter 11** Onions: The medicinal properties that supported the giant pyramid

**Chapter 12** Tulips: The world’s first bubble economy and bulbs

**Chapter 13** Corn: A Marvelous Crop

**Chapter 14** Sakura - Yamazakura and the Japan Spirit

#### READERS’ REVIEWS

“It was so interesting that I read it all at once. I think it’s one of the books that will change your life”.

“Reading world history through the lens of plants is far more thrilling than expected”.

“To be honest, when I first heard the phrase “plants changed world history,” it made me laugh. “Seriously, how could plants change history?” That was my reaction. This book completely blew my mind.

**Hidehiro Inagaki** is a doctor of agriculture and botanist who is recognized as the most prestigious in Japan. He is engaged in agricultural ecology and conveys the greatness and charm of plants to the public through his writings and lectures. Born in Shizuoka Prefecture in 1968, he received his doctorate in agriculture from the Graduate School of Agriculture at Okayama University. After working at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, he is training future students as a professor at the Faculty of Agriculture at Shizuoka University.

SHINYA HAYASAKA

# BATHING: THE WORLD'S EASIEST HEALTH HABIT

What if the most effective health habit wasn't a supplement, a gadget, or a gym membership — but your bathtub?



Japan's leading hot-spring medical specialist, Dr. Shinya Hayasaka, distills thirty years of research and data from more than 70,000 bathers into a practical, scientifically grounded method for using daily bathing to improve longevity, mood, immunity, circulation, sleep, and overall quality of life.

This book reveals that while most people shower for convenience, showers barely warm the core body and therefore fail to activate the physiological systems responsible for recovery and resilience.

Hayasaka demonstrates—clearly, accessibly, and with strong clinical evidence—that a simple bath at the right temperature and timing can outperform exercise, massage, and many popular wellness trends in regulating blood vessels, easing the autonomic nervous system, and increasing “healthy lifespan.”

Simple, inexpensive, and instantly applicable, *Bathing: The World's Easiest Health Habit* reframes the bath as a powerful, daily tool for health and longevity. It is the kind of wellness book that changes behavior overnight—and allows for health and longevity.

Ideal for readers of Dr. Andrew Huberman, James Nestor's *Breath*, Dr. Susanna Søberg's cold-/heat-exposure work, and lifestyle-science bestsellers that blend physiology with actionable guidance.

NON FICTION

Publisher: Ascom

Publication: October 2025

Pages: 208

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- From the foundations of thermal physiology and the data explaining why regular bathers consistently show greater longevity and higher levels of well-being;
- To the physician's definitive method—a precise formula of temperature and duration capable of increasing core body temperature by 1°C, boosting metabolism, and stabilizing the autonomic nervous system;
- To personalized protocols tailored to seasons and specific conditions (high or low blood pressure, headaches, colds, allergies, fatigue, concentration, skin health);
- Without overlooking an essential chapter on safety, addressing critical issues such as thermal shock and domestic accidents, which remain among the leading causes of mortality in Japan;
- And a practical guide to thermal spas and public baths, rigorously distinguishing—through a medical lens—between tradition and what is truly effective.

This book sits squarely at the intersection of health, lifestyle, and popular science — a rapidly growing international segment (sleep, longevity, stress management). It combines the authority of Japanese research—universally admired—with global relevance, translating bathing culture into data rather than folklore.

Simple, affordable, and immediately actionable, *Bathing: The World's Easiest Health Habit* has all the hallmarks of a book that changes habits overnight, restoring to the act of “going to the baths” its deepest meaning: a daily practice of health and longevity.

---

**Shinya Hayasaka** specialist in Hot Spring Therapy, Doctor of Medicine, Professor at Tokyo City University. Born in 1968 in Miyagi Prefecture. After graduating from Jichi Medical University School of Medicine in 1993, he engaged in community healthcare. Following completion of the Graduate School of Medicine at Jichi Medical University in 2002, he served as Associate Professor at Hamamatsu University School of Medicine and Professor at the Faculty of Sports and Health Sciences, Daito Bunka University, before assuming his current position. A “bathing specialist” who has medically investigated the bathing habits of over 70,000 people.

## JOE HISAISHA &amp; TAKESHI YORO

## THE LISTENING BRAIN

A dialogue between one of Japan's leading philosophers and one of the world's most talented composers.



*The Listening Brain* stands at the crossroads of neuroscience and Eastern aesthetics—a rare dialogue in which anatomist Takeshi Yoro and composer Joe Hisaishi explore the human mind as an instrument of feeling. In the tradition of Oliver Sacks' lyrical case studies and Iain McGilchrist's explorations of hemispheric thinking, the book blends scientific insight with philosophical reflection to show how deeply our emotional and creative lives are wired into the auditory brain.

Drawing on Japanese sensibilities of silence, impermanence, and breath, Yoro and Hisaishi illuminate a perspective often missing in Western neuroscience: that perception is not merely cognitive, but existential. The ear—our oldest sense—anchors empathy, rhythm, connection, and the subtle currents of meaning that flow beneath words.

In an age dominated by visual overload and analytic thinking, the authors argue for a different stance toward life itself: one shaped by sensibility over efficiency, resonance over reason. To live, they suggest, is not to complete tasks but to compose one's days as a work of art. The result is a luminous synthesis of biology and culture—a book that listens deeply to what makes us human.

This book explores fundamental questions such as “Why are people moved by music?” and “How does the synchronization of sound and image occur?” from the perspectives of neuroscience, embodied cognition, music theory, and creativity studies.

Through this book, readers experience more than simply “listening to sound”—they are invited into a new intellectual horizon where hearing activates the body, brain, and emotions.

**Rights sold**  
Spain (Debate Ediciones)

## NON FICTION

Publisher: Jitsugyo no Nihon Sha, Ltd.  
Publication: February 2025

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

**Chapter 1:** “Why Are People Moved by Music?” The authors discuss how hearing is interconnected with the brain, body, and emotion—drawing from Yoro's anatomical insights and Hisaishi's practical experience in music.

**Chapter 2:** “The Soil of Sensibility” explores the cultural and bodily background that nurtures sensitivity, while

**Chapter 3:** “What Makes Good Music?” considers what allows music to endure and how composers transcend themselves through creation.

**Chapter 4:** In “Consciousness Runs Wild” they examine creative acts that oscillate between consciousness, the unconscious, the body, and technology.

**Chapter 5:** “Empathy and Creation” delves into the role of empathy in listening, performing, and composing.

**Chapter 6:** “All Humans Are Artists” presents the idea of perceiving everyday life through an artistic lens.

**Chapter 7:** “‘Mono no Aware’ and AI” reconsiders aesthetics, music, and embodiment in the age of artificial intelligence.

## READERS' REVIEWS:

“A feast of knowledge that lets readers feel as though they are attending the conversation themselves.”

“Music, science, philosophy, society—even insects! The range of discussion is astounding.”

“A dialogue that clarifies, through vivid examples, how emotion arises from sound.”

“Readable yet profound—full of insights for creators and educators alike.”

“Both speakers are wonderfully articulate; the critique of consciousness-centered thinking was particularly striking.”

“Charming, cultured, and approachable.”

“Fascinating idea that language may arise from the union of sight and sound.”

“The explanation that hearing connects to the ancient brain and thus evokes deep emotion was deeply convincing.”

**Joe Hisaishi** began his career as a composer of contemporary music and, after graduating from music college, developed an interest in minimal music. In recent years, he has worked internationally as a conductor with orchestras around the world. His album *A Symphonic Celebration*, released by Deutsche Grammophon, ranked No. 1 in two U.S. Billboard categories. In April 2025 he assumed the role of Music Director of the Japan Century Symphony Orchestra.

**Takeshi Yoro** was born in 1937 in Kamakura, graduating from Tokyo University School of Medicine and joining the Research Center of Anatomy. Following his degree in M.D., he taught anatomy at Tokyo University until 1995 and was a professor at Kitazato University until 2003 and later became an Honored Professor at Tokyo University. Yoro is popular for his explanations of societal phenomena and psychological issues from the neuroscientific and anatomic perspective. He is the author and co-author of over 500 books, his most well-known being *The Wall of Ignorance*.

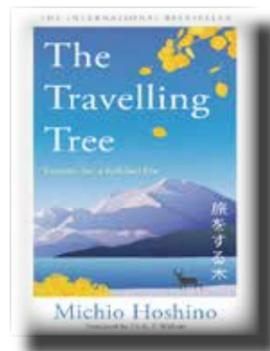
# MICHIO HOSHINO

## THE TRAVELLING TREE

### Lessons from a Nomadic Life

This enduring collection of essays recounts world-renowned author's experiences with wildlife in Alaska and offers his reflections of our place within it.

Half a million copies sold

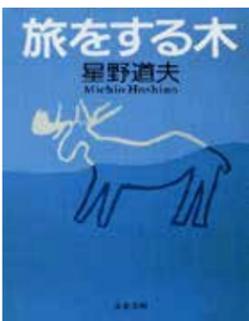


First published in 1994, and reprinted 57 times (with half a million copies sold), *The Travelling Tree* by world renowned photographer Michio Hoshino is a literary classic of nature writing. In this enduringly popular collection, naturalist, mystic and adventurer Michio Hoshino recounts his experiences with the wildlife and reflects on and our place within it.

Michio Hoshino's life was changed after coming across a book containing an aerial photograph of the tiny Inupuiak (Eskimo) village, Shishmaref, in a used bookstore in Tokyo. The teenager was immediately enchanted by this tiny cluster of dwellings on the Arctic Sea. What sort of people lived in such a desolate place, seemingly at the ends of the Earth? The photograph intrigued him so much that he decided to write a letter asking if he could visit the village. Not knowing to whom he should address the letter, he made it out to simply, "Mayor, Shishmaref." To his surprise, he received a response from an Inupuiak family willing to host him and spent the next summer, at the age of 19, immersed in their way of life.

After this introduction to Alaska, Hoshino was smitten with America's northernmost state and dedicated the remainder of his life to photographing and writing about it. *The Travelling Tree* is a collection of his writing published at the peak of his artistic prowess, only two years before his career was tragically cut short at the age of 43 by a fatal bear attack while on a shoot in the Kamchatka Peninsula.

*The Travelling Tree* has gained increasing popularity in the more than 20 years since Hoshino's untimely death. His work has been featured in numerous Japanese television specials and documentaries and an exhibition of his photography has travelled to cities and communities across Japan.



#### Rights sold

Italy (Rizzoli)  
Spain (Cántico)  
UK/US (Octopus Books)

#### EXCERPT

*As I write this, my wife Naoko is pregnant. While I am very happy about this development, it also makes me somewhat anxious. She continues to have intermittent spotting and we're worried about the possibility of a miscarriage. After consulting with the local doctor, we have decided for the time being to wait and see how her condition progresses. I've been involved with the immense wilderness of Alaska for all these years, and now for the first time I'm perplexed by a little slice of nature of my own.*

*About six or seven years ago, I caught my first sighting of a caribou giving birth. This was while I was up north awaiting their spring migration. From our camp, the Arctic Ocean was visible on the edge of the horizon, and although it was the month of May the temperature still felt like minus sixty when the wind blew.*

*One day around twilight, a small herd of caribou descended from the mountains. There must have been 30 to 40 of them in total. They had journeyed over 600 miles from the woodlands of Canada. All were female and most were probably bearing young. While I had been following the caribou for close to a decade, I had yet to witness a birth.*

*Since I could only ever stake out one particular spot in the vast Alaskan Arctic through which the caribou are constantly on the move, my chances of encountering this momentous event were slim.*

*But as I watched through binoculars from my tent, one fell behind the rest of the herd, behaving strangely. In a panic, she kept tumbling to her side and getting back up again. I decided she must be about to give birth. She was too far to photograph and I would have scared her if I'd left the tent, so I stayed where I was, squeezing the binoculars in my fists and hoping anxiously. Her companions, not breaking pace, had already vanished into the distance of the tundra.*

*When the lone caribou stood up suddenly, a small black form flopped out onto the snowy field. Hurriedly I stuffed a camera into my backpack, crawled quietly out of my tent, and made my way on all fours towards them until they were in close view. I believe it was around midnight, but the season of endless day had already arrived and the sun that never sets shone on the white plane. Even bundled up in thick down gear, the burning cold cut through to my skin.*

**Michio Hoshino** (1952-1996) was a photographer and a memoirist, winner of the Anima Award. Born and raised in Ichikawa City, Chiba, his life changed forever by an aerial photograph of the Inupuiak (Eskimo) village, Shishmaref, found by chance in a bookstore in Tokyo. He moved to Alaska at the age of 19, and dedicated his life to photographing and writing. He is best known for his extraordinary photos of polar bears in Alaska.

# TAKAAKI KAWASHIMA

## FREE YOURSELF FROM THE PARENTS YOU HATE:

### The Japanese Way



#### You are not wrong for feeling anger toward a parent:

- Harm can exist without obvious abuse
- Parents can be both loving and damaging
- Psychological independence matters more than approval
- Letting go of resentment does not require loving or understanding your parents

This book has become a quiet phenomenon among readers who feel betrayed by the traditional family-values discourse. Its message offers relief, validation, and concrete steps toward autonomy—without vilifying parents or idealizing separation.

Free Yourself from the Parents You Hate: The Japanese Way is a guide that explores how to overcome deep emotional wounds and resentment toward your parents through Japanese philosophical and therapeutic perspectives. Drawing on cultural concepts such as acceptance, self-compassion, and non-confrontational healing, the book helps readers detach from cycles of blame and emotional dependency to reclaim their personal peace.

Philosophical, and reflective, the author mixes case studies, quotes from Buddhist thought, and psychological exercises. The unjudging approach centers on practical emotional liberation.

Many adults are still struggling with their relationships with their parents. In this book, you will find a way to end the painful relationship with your parents and live your own life!

#### Rights sold

UK/US (Leap of Bonnier Books)

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“Freedom isn’t rebellion or distance for its own sake.  
It’s the gentle awareness that your life belongs to you and always has.”

Tools that combine Buddhist mindfulness, cognitive awareness, and traditional Japanese emotional discipline.

#### The Prison of Parental Hatred

Many adults remain emotionally bound to harmful parents through anger, guilt, or fear. Healing begins by recognizing that freedom is an internal process.

#### Understanding the Source of Pain

Childhood neglect or abuse shapes distorted self-images through internalized parental voices. Japanese practices help separate past identity from present self.

#### The Japanese Way of Letting Go

Letting go is achieved through shouganai—accepting reality without blame or forced forgiveness. This leads to sustainable emotional detachment.

#### Escaping the “Good Child” Trap

The need for parental approval fuels perfectionism and guilt. Replacing gaman with self-respect restores emotional balance.

#### Healing Without Reconciliation

Reconciliation is not required for closure. Healing comes from mourning the ideal parent and accepting reality.

#### Building Emotional Independence

Emotional independence is rebuilt through self-parenting and self-nurture. The goal is yasuragi, inner tranquility.

#### Integrating the Past into the Present

The past is integrated, not erased. Pain becomes part of growth without defining identity.

#### Exercises and Reflections

- Reflection journal (daily or weekly introspection on giving and receiving)
- Letter to your parents (write, never send — release resentment through words)
- Visualization of separation (imagine cutting the invisible bond or burning symbolic threads)
- Self-compassion ritual (repeat affirmations such as “I am enough as I am”)

**Takaaki Kawashima** Representative of the Adult Parent-Child Relationship Counseling Center and the Mental Training Office of Takateru Kawashima. Born in Niigata Prefecture in 1974, Kawashima became an independent counselor in 2011 and later established "Adult Parent-Child Relationship Counseling Center".

# ICHIRO KISHIMI



## THE COURAGE TO THINK FOR YOURSELF

A practical framework for reclaiming the ability to think in an age overwhelmed by noise, anxiety, and constant distraction.

Structured in eight concise chapters—from Why Avoid Thinking to The World and Life Are Not Exclusive—the book draws a sharp distinction between worry, which traps us in emotional loops, and thinking, which opens paths toward action and choice. Addressing the dilemmas of midlife, work, and relationships, Kishimi argues that many modern crises stem not from lack of effort, but from the inability to engage in genuine reflection.



NON FICTION

Publisher: Chikuma  
Shobo  
Publication 2025  
Pages: 224

## THE COURAGE TO BE ORDINARY

There is a saying that “there is no cure for stupidity”, but is there a “cure for normality”? This book was born out of a response to that concern.

At the root of the anxiety of “having to be special” is a comparison with others. How can we free ourselves from comparison with others, gain confidence and live happily?

This book explores a lifestyle that “doesn’t try to be special, but isn’t ordinary either”.

### Rights sold

Brazil (Editoria Sexante)  
Croatia (Planetopija)  
France (Guy Tredaniel)  
Germany (Rowohlt Verlage)  
Greece (Psichogios Publications)  
Italy (De Agostini)  
Lithuania (Baltos Lankos)  
Poland (Wydawnictwo Filia)  
Portugal (Presenca SA)  
Romania (Grup Media Litera)  
Russia (Eksmo)  
Serbia (Publik Praktikum)  
Spain (Planeta Neko)  
UK (Ebury)  
USA (HarperCollins)

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NON FICTION

Publisher: Sunmark  
Publication: 2025  
Pages: 336

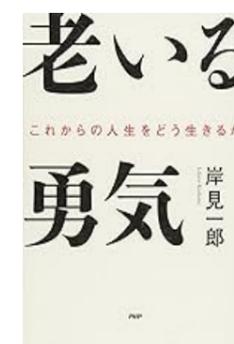


NON FICTION

Publisher: PHP  
Publication: 2023  
Pages: 256

## THE COURAGE TO LET GO

This book is a philosophical and psychological exploration of human relationships in contemporary society, particularly in the age of constant connectivity (e.g., social media, work expectations, familial duties). The book encourages readers to develop the “courage not to connect” when such connections are based on coercion, dependency, or societal pressure, and instead pursue “true connections” built on equality, understanding, and love. In order to maintain our sense of self, we must not fear loneliness.



NON FICTION

Publisher: PHP Publisher  
Publication: 2020  
Pages: 188

## THE COURAGE TO GROW OLD

This book invites readers to rethink aging not as decline but as a natural, meaningful stage of life that can offer peace, freedom, and deep self-understanding. Kishimi argues that modern society overly glorifies youth and productivity, often making people fear aging. In contrast, he shows that growing old is not something to be avoided, but embraced—with courage.



NON FICTION

Publisher: PHP Publisher  
Publication: 2018  
Pages: 237

## THE COURAGE TO LOVE

A philosophical and psychological guide to understanding and practicing authentic love in one’s life—not as dependency or possession, but as a courageous act of freedom and mutual respect. Kishimi argues that many people struggle to love—or to accept love—because they don’t believe they deserve it or fear the vulnerability it requires.

**Ichiro Kishimi** (1956) is a Japanese philosopher and psychologist specializing in Western ancient philosophy and Adlerian psychology. Kishimi has taught at various institutions. He co-authored the bestseller *The Courage to Be Disliked* with Fumitake Koga, which has sold over one million copies since its publication in 2013. Since 2017, he has been writing and overseeing special features on Adlerian psychology.

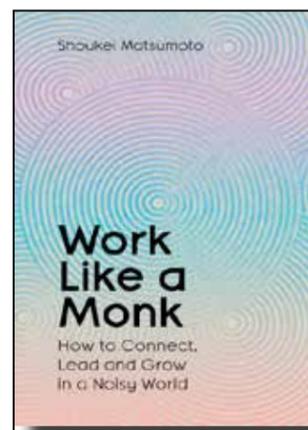
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## SHOUKEI MATSUMOTO

## WORK LIKE A MONK

## How to Connect, Lead and Grow in a Noisy World

An engaging exploration of what makes work meaningful, by a popular Buddhist monk and cultural commentator.



In our hectic days filled with long hours, endless emails, and tedious virtual meetings, it's hard to stay connected to the higher purpose of work – to see past the grind and embrace what we're really trying to achieve.

In this engaging and illuminating book, Japanese Buddhist monk Shoukei Matsumoto offers a fresh take on what it means to find satisfaction at work. Presented in the form of an imagined conversation between a Western businessperson and a temple priest, this far-ranging exploration covers everything from embracing simplicity and communicating with clarity to the importance of daily rituals, insights on avoiding burnout, and even what it means to be a good ancestor. Along the way, you'll discover ancient wisdom and contemporary ideas – all thoughtfully presented in the context of modern daily life.

NON FICTION

Publisher: Simon&amp;Schuster UK

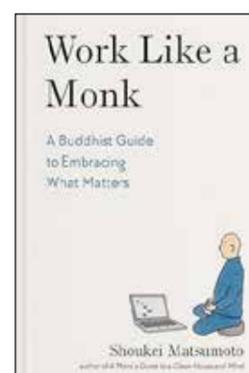
Publication: 2025

Pages: 192

Original language: Japanese

## Rights sold

Czech Republic (Grada Publishing)  
France (Guy Tredaniel)  
Germany (Penguin Random House  
Verlagsgruppe GmbH)  
Greece (Patakis)  
Italy (Vallardi)  
Netherlands (Atlas Contact)  
Portugal (Bertrand Editora)  
Romania (Editura Humanitas)  
Spain (Editorial Planeta)  
UK (Gallery)  
US (Tarcher)



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**Introduction**

Overview of “People’s Buddhism” and its emphasis on mindful listening.  
How Buddhist teachings resonate in everyday life and work.

**People’s Buddhism**

Life Noise: Navigating external distractions and inner chatter.

What is Happiness at Work: Redefining success in professional life.

Listening First: Lessons from Buddhist teachings on genuine communication.

Mindful Listening: The practice of listening with the heart and presence.

Ambient Buddhism: Observing connections in everyday environments.

The Finger Pointing at the Moon: Understanding teachings beyond literal meaning.

**Temple Morning**

Aisatsu, “Hello!?”: The depth of greetings as moments of connection.

True Person: Recognizing the essence of individuals beyond roles and labels.

Itadakimasu: Expressing gratitude through daily rituals like meals.

Buddha’s Songs: Chanting as a practice for inner harmony.

How Can We Become Good Ancestors? Reflections on legacy and interconnectedness.

Walking and Pilgrimage: Spiritual significance of walking and slowing down.

Cleaning as Mindfulness: The transformative power of mindful cleaning.

**People’s Buddhism at Work**

No Job in Life is a Bullshit Job: Finding meaning in all forms of work.

What Matters is Returning, Not Just Maintaining: The importance of renewal over perfection.

We Are Interbeing: Exploring the interconnectedness of individuals and teams.

Fellowness as a Moral Dimension: Expanding our sense of community and responsibility.



**Shoukei Matsumoto** (1979) is a Contemporary Buddhist, who graduated from the Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Letters, University of Tokyo. Matsumoto is the World Economic Forum (Davos) Young Global Leader. In 2010, he received his MBA from the Indian Institute of Business (ISB) as a Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholar. In 2012, he opened the “Future Chief Priest School”, a temple management school.

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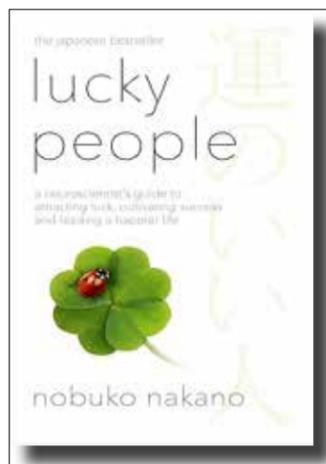
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NOBUKO NAKANO

# THE SCIENCE OF LUCKY PEOPLE

A Neuroscientist's Guide to Attracting Luck, Cultivating Success and Leading a Happier Life

230,000 copies sold



Lucky and unlucky people often encounter similar situations and setbacks in life. But the way they view and think about the circumstances differs, as does the way they deal with them. So, what are the common lifestyle patterns, mindsets, and outlooks of lucky people?

Nobuko Nakano is a neuroscientist who argues that luck isn't random but can be cultivated through intentional actions. We can become lucky through our mindset and behaviour. Certain behaviours attract luck, such as taking calculated risks, expanding social networks and reframing setbacks.

Our thoughts and actions shape how our brain processes information and affects how we interact with the world. If we believe in good outcomes, we are more likely to act in ways that will make them happen.

This is science-based self-help and an expert take on a fascinating subject that can at first seem irrational and unpredictable.

NON FICTION

Publisher: Sunmark

Publication: 2023

Pages: 207



## Rights sold

Arabic (Dar Alkhan)  
Brazil (Globo Livros)  
France (Guy Tredaniel)  
Germany (Kösel PRH)  
Italy (Newton Compton)  
Portugal (Leya)  
Romania (Editura Humanitas)  
Russia (Eksmo)  
Spain (Penguin Random House Grupo Editorial)  
Sweden (Gyldendal Astra)  
UK/US (Gallery)

Nobuko Nakano's method for being lucky involves:

1. Cultivating a lucky mindset (optimism, openness, growth mindset).
2. Engaging in behaviors that increase exposure to opportunities (taking risks, building social networks, adaptability).
3. Practicing gratitude to foster a positive outlook.
4. Using visualization to align the brain with successful outcomes.
5. Practicing mindfulness to stay present and aware of opportunities.
6. Taking consistent action to create opportunities.
7. Rewiring negative thought patterns that block luck.
8. Staying resilient and persistent in the face of challenges.

By combining these elements, Nakano's method turns luck from something random into something largely under personal control, rooted in a scientific understanding of how mindset and behavior influence outcomes.

## EXCERPT

*Lucky people are those who make the most of their current selves.*

*When people wish to become lucky, they often end up trying to change themselves. For instance, those who consider economically prosperous individuals to be lucky may work hard to change themselves into someone who can become financially successful. Similarly, those who think lucky people are healthy and live long lives may try to change themselves into healthier versions.*

*It's easy to fall into the trap of making efforts to become the kind of lucky person one envisions by studying or changing one's environment to alter one's current self. However, this approach might be a bit off the mark. The effort to change oneself to become a lucky person, while it might seem as though it's heading in the right direction, is in fact taking an enormous detour. In fact, it might be leading them further away from being lucky.*

*Lucky people, rather than striving to change themselves, start by fully embracing their current selves and making the most of who they are at this moment.*

*Lucky people, rather than striving to change themselves into something different, focus on making the most of who they are right now. They don't see their current selves as something that needs to be fixed or altered to attain luck. Instead, they work with what they have and find ways to optimize their current circumstances.*

**Nobuko Nakano** is well known throughout the neuroscience field. She also regularly comments on political affairs and is an avid art lover.

# MISUZU NAKASHIMA

## WHY AM I ALWAYS LATE?

### Unraveling the Brain Mechanisms Behind Poor Time Management



Why do I always miss deadlines, arrive late, or start projects at the very last moment—although I know I shouldn't? Or does someone you love, or a work colleague infuriate you because they never arrive on time?

This book invites you to look beyond easy explanations like laziness or poor organization skills and to view time management as a psychological and cognitive issue, shaped by differences in perception, planning ability, and executive functioning.

Whether you are the one always rushing, or the one waiting (and fuming) on the other side, this book helps you recognize what is really happening when time slips away. You are guided through behaviors commonly labeled as “sloppy” or “irresponsible” and shown why they are often neither. Lateness, last-minute procrastination, and missed deadlines turn out to be less a matter of character than of how the brain remembers, plans, and experiences time.

Along the way, reconsider something deceptively simple: what does “five minutes” actually feel like? Drawing on time psychology and insights into reward sensitivity and ADHD-related traits, the book explains why time passes quickly for some, painfully slowly for others, and unpredictably for many.

Executive function is the mental skills that allow you to start tasks, stay focused, and finish what you intend to do. Understanding why “knowing what to do” does not always lead to action becomes a turning point, not only for self-reflection but for change.

Whether you struggle with managing your own time or find yourself affected by the time habits of others—at work, at home, or in leadership roles—this book offers practical ways to address the mechanisms that make “keeping time” difficult. Time management can become a shared success rather than a constant source of friction.

#### NON FICTION

Publisher: PHP  
Publication: 2026  
Pages: 250

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

#### Rethinking “Carelessness”

Behaviors commonly labeled as sloppiness—lateness, last-minute action, missed deadlines—are examined through a psychological lens. The chapter argues that these patterns often stem from limitations in memory, planning, or time perception, rather than lack of effort. It highlights the social and professional consequences of misinterpreting inability as unwillingness.

#### Differences in Time Perception

From the perspective of time psychology, this chapter explores how individuals experience time differently. It considers how reward sensitivity and neurological traits associated with ADHD influence time awareness and decision-making, explaining why identical time spans can feel radically different from one person to another.

#### Executive Function and Action Initiation

Focusing on executive function—the cognitive processes involved in goal setting, task initiation, and completion—this chapter explains how developmental differences or impairments affect time management. It clarifies why some individuals struggle not with understanding tasks, but with starting and sequencing them.

#### Patterns That Undermine Time Management

This chapter analyzes habitual thinking and behavior patterns that interfere with effective time use. It identifies common negative cycles and emphasizes the importance of adjusting expectations, task structure, and behavioral habits to achieve sustainable improvement.

#### Guidance for Managers and Supervisors

Addressing workplace applications, the final chapter offers practical guidance for leaders managing employees who struggle with time management. From the perspective of reasonable accommodation, it discusses task design, progress monitoring, reminders, and feedback, emphasizing support over blame.

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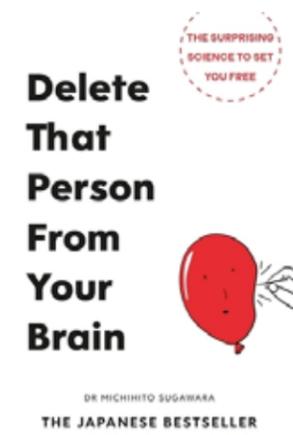
**Misuzu Nakashima** Ph.D. is a Japanese clinical psychologist. PhD (Psychology) ADHD CBT at the national hospital organization Hizen Psychiatric Center of Kyushu University.

# MICHIHITO SUGAWARA

## DELETE THAT PERSON FROM YOUR BRAIN

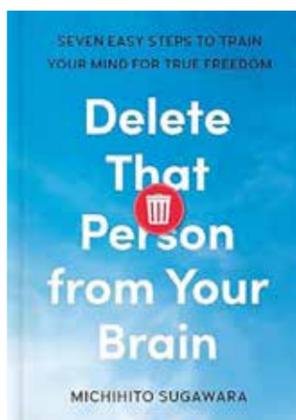
Seven Easy Steps to Train Your Mind for True Freedom

A book for any person who has ever disliked any person!



NON FICTION

Publisher: Sunmark  
Publication: 2025  
Pages: 192



Why is it so hard to stop thinking about difficult people?

The answer lies deep within our brain's survival instinct. When someone triggers anxiety, anger, or fear, our mind automatically marks them as a "threat"—making it nearly impossible to simply ignore them.

This book offers a revolutionary solution: don't fight your brain's wiring—retrain it.

Rather than asking who "deserves" space in your mind, this practical guide teaches you how to erase the mental presence of problematic people and reclaim your attention. Through simple techniques and real-life examples, readers learn to shift their brain's focus away from negative emotions and toward what truly matters: personal growth, creativity, and happiness.

The result is a lasting transformation—not just a temporary relief.

When the mind is no longer occupied by "that person," it finally has space to grow stronger, freer, and more fulfilled.

### Rights sold

Arabic (Arab Scientific Publisher)  
Brazil (Companhia das letras)  
France (Albin Michel)  
Germany (Rowohlt Verlage)  
Greece (Patakis Publisher)  
Italy (Giunti Editore)  
Netherlands (Harper Collins Holland)  
Poland (Spoleczny Instytut Wydawniczy Znak.)  
Portugal (Presenca SA)  
Russia (Mann, Ivanov and Ferber)  
Spain (Grijalbo)  
Turkey (Destek)  
UK (Ebury)  
US (Tarcher)

Vicki Satlow Literary Agency  
info@vickisatlow.com

# GET YOUR BRAIN TO DO IT NOW

For people who think too much and do too little



NON FICTION

Publisher: Sunmark  
Publication: 2024  
Pages: 208

Why do we keep putting things off, even when we shouldn't?

You want to lose weight, get organized, learn a new language, or finally start that project. Instead, you overthink, hesitate, scroll endlessly, and tell yourself: "I'll start tomorrow."

Chronic procrastination is not a failure of willpower. Only one person out of ten manages to "start today," and it's not because the other nine are lazy. The truth is: our brains are wired to conserve energy. Thinking, deciding, and starting all require effort, and the brain — an organ that consumes nearly 20% of the body's oxygen — naturally tries to avoid that cost.

The result? We stall.

The solution is not to fight your brain, but to rewire it. The breakthrough comes from understanding one key mechanism. This book shows readers how to trigger that shift immediately.

Written by a practicing neurosurgeon, the book combines scientific credibility with radical simplicity. The language is clear, the examples relatable, and the chapters concise.

If you know what you should be doing but feel stuck, sluggish, or trapped in indecision, *Get your brain to do it now* shows how to get your brain to act.

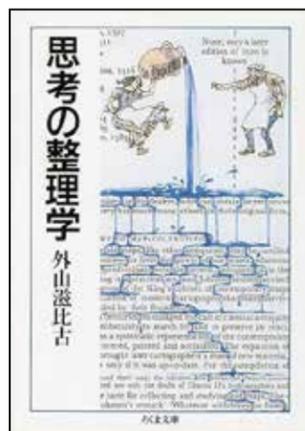
**Michihito Sugawara** is a neurosurgeon specializing in emergency brain diseases. In 2015, he opened the Sugawara Neurosurgery Clinic in Hachioji, Tokyo, followed by the Sugawara Clinic Tokyo Brain Doc in 2019. Known for an innovative approach that prioritizes patients' life goals, he is widely recognized for his clear, accessible explanations of how the brain works. He has appeared on numerous TV programs and has collaborated with Deepak Chopra.

Vicki Satlow Literary Agency  
info@vickisatlow.com

# SHIGEHIKO TOYAMA

## THE ART OF ORGANIZING THOUGHTS

132 reprints, over 2.95 million copies sold



How can we learn to think with our own minds, let ideas lift off effortlessly, and allow our thoughts to soar freely? In front of students at Japan's top university—who had successfully triumphed in the exam-driven world where knowledge and memory reigns—Toyama boldly declared, “The more knowledge you have, the less thinking is done,” leaving the audience visibly stunned. This revised edition of his signature book *The Art of Organizing Thoughts*, an introductory guidebook to nurture deep and meaningful habits of thought, includes the contents of one of the author's last and phenomenal lectures at Tokyo University.

“Accumulating knowledge doesn't strengthen your ability to think—and when it comes to storing and recalling information, we've long been outperformed by technology. [...] However, we can develop something technology can't replicate: the ability to selectively forget. When we bring in new knowledge and actively let go of what's no longer needed, we keep our minds clean and organized. This allows us to adapt new information to our own unique perspectives, and sometimes, ideas we once absorbed resurface on their own, leading to unexpected insights and discoveries. It's not just about forgetting; it's about forgetting selectively.”

NON FICTION

Publisher: Chikuma Shobo  
New edition: 2025  
Original publication: 1983  
Pages: 256

### Rights sold

France (Laffont)  
Germany (Bertelsmann)  
Greece (Patakis Publishers)  
Hungary (Park)  
Israel (Yedioth Books)  
Italy (Rizzoli)  
Netherlands (Alfabet)  
Poland (Wydawnictwo Czarna Owca)  
Romania (Grup Media Litera)  
Spain (Debate)  
UK/US (Penguin Lifestyle PRH)  
Chinese (Simplified), Chinese (Traditional), Korean

# THE ART OF FORGETTING

The long-awaited sequel to the timeless “bible of knowledge”



From childhood, we are taught that forgetting is a failure: lost test scores, missed appointments, broken promises. Yet what if forgetting is not a weakness but a hidden strength?

In *The Art of Forgetting*, celebrated Japanese thinker Shigehiko Toyama dismantles the myth of perfect memory and reveals the liberating truth: forgetting is as vital as remembering. Through sharp, witty essays, Toyama explores how memory and forgetting work as partners—how forgetting allows us to think creatively, to recover from trauma, and to live more lightly in a world overwhelmed by information.

Drawing on philosophy, psychology, and everyday observation, Toyama shows that raw knowledge is useless without the distillation that forgetting provides. Just as a carpenter cannot build with unseasoned wood, the mind cannot create without letting some knowledge slip away. With warmth and clarity, he redefines forgetfulness not as a defect but as the soil in which originality, resilience, and even happiness grow.

A bestseller in Japan, *The Art of Forgetting* speaks directly to our era of information overload and constant digital distraction. This is not just a book about memory—it is a guide to living more wisely by embracing the power of letting go.

NON FICTION

Publisher: Chikuma Shobo  
Publication: 2024  
Pages: 256

### Rights sold

France (Robert Laffont)  
Greece (Patakis Publishers)  
Hungary (Park)  
Italy (Rizzoli)  
Netherlands (Alfabet)  
Poland (Wydawnictwo Czarna Owca)  
Romania (Grup Media Litera)

**Shigehiko Toyama** (1923-2020) was a Doctor of Literature, critic, and essayist. After serving as editor-in-chief of *Eigo Seinen* (*The Rising Generation*), a monthly magazine aimed at researchers and students of English literature, he taught at institutions such as Tokyo University of Education and Ochanomizu University. Beginning with English literature as his primary field, he produced original work across a wide range of areas including textual studies, rhetoric, editorship, thought, and the Japanese language.

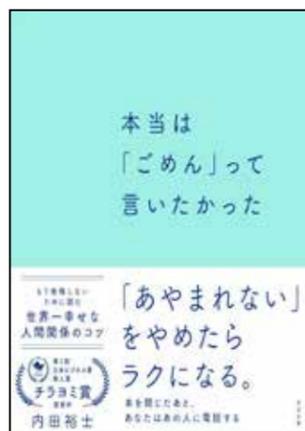
## HIROSHI UCHIDA

I'M SORRY  
The Power of Apology

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

But why is it so hard for us to simply say *I'm sorry*?

Whoever said that love means never having to say you are sorry was  
**WRONG!**



Imagine you have a problem with someone who doesn't apologize to you. You don't want to apologize because you don't think it's your fault. Are your relationships strained because of it? Do you spend your days feeling uneasy?

This book was written for those who immediately answered "yes" to this question.

The majority of our problems in our lives involve interpersonal relationships which are also cited as the most common reason for leaving the workplace, leaving school, and divorce.

Everyone wants to improve their relationships. So why are so many of us stuck, unable to get along with others? Why do we have misunderstandings with people, get into trouble, or feel badly?

The key to improving your relationships, eliminating regrets, and even raising your self-esteem is One word: "Sorry."

NON FICTION

Publisher: Subarusya  
Publication: 2023  
Pages: 128



**Rights sold**  
Spain (Newton Compton Editores)

**Why Is It So Hard to Apologize?**

The psychological barriers that prevent people from saying "I'm sorry."  
How pride, fear of rejection, and societal expectations shape our reluctance to apologize.  
The difference between a sincere apology and one made out of obligation.

**The Power of Apologizing**

How a genuine apology can rebuild relationships and foster trust.  
The emotional and mental benefits of apologizing, including stress relief and personal growth.  
Examples of famous or everyday apologies that have transformed relationships or situations.

**Techniques for Apologizing**

Practical methods for delivering an effective apology.  
The importance of timing, tone, and sincerity.  
How to handle situations where an apology is rejected or misunderstood.  
Differences between verbal, written, and action-based apologies.

**How "I'm Sorry" Can Improve Your Life**

How mastering the art of apology leads to stronger personal and professional relationships.  
Case studies of people who have changed their lives through sincere apologies.  
The link between humility, accountability, and happiness.  
Steps to incorporate a more open, apologetic mindset into daily interactions.

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**Hiroshi Uchida**, born in 1978 in Tsukuba City, Ibaraki Prefecture, is the founder and current director of "BIJUKU", a makeup school that emphasizes enhancing women's natural beauty. He is also a certified counselor and has developed a unique makeup technique that promotes self-acceptance and confidence. Through his work, Uchida has impacted over 10,000 individuals, helping them improve their self-esteem and interpersonal relationships.

# TAKESHI YORO

## THE WALL OF IGNORANCE

Six million copies sold. Reprinted more than 129 times

The most read book of the Heisei era (1989-2019)

The 5th most sold book in all Japanese history



Takeshi Yoro is a renowned Japanese anatomist, writer, and thinker known for his interdisciplinary approach to science and philosophy. As a professor emeritus at the University of Tokyo, his scientific work primarily focuses on human anatomy and neuroscience. However, he gained widespread recognition for his thought-provoking essays and books that explore the intersection of biology, society, and human perception.

One of his most famous works, *Baka no Kabe (The Wall of Ignorance)*, delves into cognitive biases and human ignorance, earning him critical acclaim. His writing often challenges conventional wisdom, encouraging readers to think independently and question societal norms. Yoro's ability to bridge science and humanities has made him an influential figure in both academic and literary circles in Japan.

*"In the last twenty years, the world has seen a rise of 'walls of ignorance'. At the heart of the book is a reflection on human nature... Yoro's terminology has taken on a life of its own..."*

**The Japan Times**

### Rights sold

Chinese (Traditional)  
France (Guy Tredaniel)  
Germany (DTV Verlagsgesellschaft)  
Poland (Zysk i S-ka Wydawnictwo  
Tadeusz Zysk)  
Romania (Alice Books)  
Russia (Alpina Publisher)  
Spain (Debate)  
UK/US (Fern PRH)  
Korean, Turkish

*People may say that I have explained things, but I have explained traditional Japanese concepts in a Western style for modern Japanese people.*

*However, since I am not a Westerner, I simply used what Japanese people think is Western style to explain traditional Japanese concepts in a unique way.*

People often believe they "know" something—whether from the media, social circles, or personal experience. Yet, our understanding is shaped by unconscious biases and cognitive limitations. We strive for uniqueness, unaware that we are already unique. We cling to impossible truths, not because they are logical, but because our brains are wired that way.

Takeshi Yoro explores *The Wall of Ignorance*, the invisible barrier that prevents us from truly grasping the world around us. He delves into the neuroscience of human intelligence, revealing how our cognitive limitations shape our perceptions, interactions, and even global decision-making.

Dialogue and interaction do not always lead to understanding; instead, we often reinforce our own assumptions without realizing it. This book invites readers to critically examine the mental constructs that cloud their judgment and to break free from the illusions of certainty.

By deconstructing these ingrained beliefs, we open the door to deeper knowledge, awareness, and a more profound understanding of ourselves and the world.

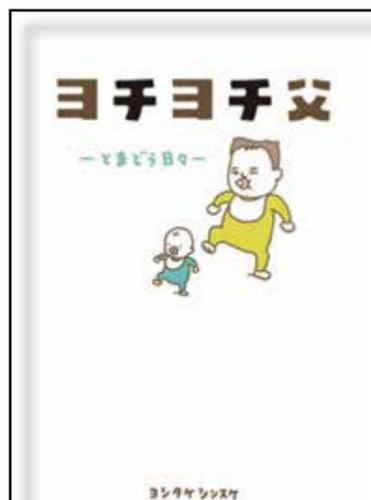
*"A donkey doesn't become a horse just by travelling..."*  
A provocative metaphor about limits on learning and change.

**Takeshi Yoro** was born in 1937 in Kamakura, graduating from Tokyo University School of Medicine and joining the Research Center of Anatomy. Following his degree in M.D., he taught anatomy at Tokyo University until 1995 and was a professor at Kitazato University until 2003 and later became an Honored Professor at Tokyo University. Yoro is popular for his explanations of societal phenomena and psychological issues from the neuroscientific and anatomic perspective. He is the author and co-author of over 500 books, his most well-known being *The Wall of Ignorance*. He is the president of the Association of Insects in Kamakura, a community group which he founded himself. His love of insects comes from his curiosity towards things that cannot be explained by mere theory.

## SHINSUKE YOSHITAKE

## DADDY'S TODDLING FIRST STEPS

Beloved children's book author Shinsuke Yoshitake shares the funny and frustrating truths of fatherhood in his first illustrated parenting essay.



Aren't fathers always left out?

Picture book author Shinsuke Yoshitake figured it out when he became a dad. While struggling with the daily challenges of raising a child, Shinsuke experiences uncertainty, discovers insights, and finds joy.

His illustrated essays on his initiation into fatherhood will have experienced parents laughing and nodding knowingly. It would make the perfect gift for a new dad!

## Rights sold

Chinese (Simplified)  
Korean

NON FICTION

Publisher: Poplar Publishing Co.

Publication: January 2025

Pages: 128

## READERS' REVIEWS

"A cute little piece; as I read, I kept nodding in agreement, totally understanding".

"Really interesting and laughable! I can sympathize with you! I can cry!"

"I think this book is something that soon-to-be fathers, grandfathers, mothers, and grandmothers can all relate to, helping deepen understanding of each other and providing plenty of conversation starters".

## 39 息詰まるミッション

1. 我が子のツメ切り、キーンとしますよね。



088



089

**Shinsuke Yoshitake** Born in 1973. He made his debut as a picture-book author in 2013 with *It Might Be an Apple*. He has since authored many other works with a diverse range and won numerous awards, including the MOE Picture Book Store Awards, the New York Times Best Illustrated Children's Book Award and a special mention at the Bologna Ragazzi Award. Many of his works have been translated into other languages.

# CHISATO ABE YATAGARASU

Over 2 million copies sold of this high fantasy inspired by Japanese mythology

The series has been adapted into Mangas and an anime television show available on Apple tv



Enter the world of the Yatagarasu, a society evoking Heian-era Japan, where the legendary three-legged crows that appear as a messenger of god in Japanese mythology live as humans in a parallel world.

Set in a grand-scale fantasy world conceived by the author, and filled the eponymous creatures known as Yatagarasu, which are shape-shifting ravens/crows, the story revolves around five Yatagarasu families who are able to transform between human and crow forms.

In the four corners of the domain, the Yatagarasu characters contend with power struggles, turmoil, conspiracy and natural disasters. They are forced to establish alliances and contend for favors to ensure their power.

In volume 1, four beautiful princesses from great noble families gather at the palace where only one will be chosen as a queen for the crown prince, who does not reveal himself to them. The protagonist is Yama Yukiyauchi, who is a member of this shape-shifting race that's been selected to assist Prince Wakamiya. Together, they deal with all sorts of oddities and the unfortunate commonalities of royal drama.

Various folkloric elements of Shinto mythology (including the eponymous crows) appear in the series, although the central part revolves around the relationship between the prince and his Yatagarasu.

**Rights sold**  
 Italy (Mondadori)  
 Russia (Ast)  
 Simple Chinese (People's Literature)  
 Traditional Chinese (Systex)

FICTION

Publisher: Bungeishunju  
 Publication: 2012-present

**Chisato Abe** was born in Gunma Prefecture in 1991. She made her debut as a student at Waseda University, after receiving the 2012 Matsumoto Seicho Prize for her work wich was later published. Her *Yatagarasu* series was selected as the winner of the Yoshikawa Eiji Bunko Prize for 2024.

# AKI HAMANAKA

## THE FAMILY

Nominated for the 174th Naoki Prize



On November 3, 2011, a naked woman ran to the police box and the “incident” was discovered. The woman said that she was stealing from her sister and her family, but the police refused to file a case on the grounds of “civil non-intervention.”

That was the beginning of the “Amagasaki Serial Death Case”, one of the worst cases in Japan’s crime history. Miyoko Sumida, a 64 year old Japanese grandmother from Amagasaki, allegedly coerced family and friends to kidnap, torture and murder multiple people for financial gain. The crimes began with the disappearance of a woman in or around 1987 and, although several suspicious deaths and disappearances had occurred one after another, the case would not come to light for many years.

Akira Hamanaka, who has continued to release mystery novels that closely address social issues such as elder care, homeless children, and the employment ice age, highlights in this non-stop crime novel the flaws hidden in Japan’s doctrine of ‘no involvement in civil matters.

Despite being such a shocking incident, no novel had directly tackled it until now.

*“At that time, the press had to explain the family tree, but because the crime period was long and there were so many people involved, I don’t think anyone was able to understand the whole picture of the case after hearing it once. I thought it might be better to extract the episode to some extent and write it, but I felt that if I cut down on the “complexity”, the inexplicable attraction of this incident itself would disappear.”*

### Aki Hamanaka - Interview

Family is a chilling psychological novel inspired by the real Amagasaki serial confinement and murder case, one of Japan’s most disturbing modern crimes. It follows a charismatic woman who builds a cult-like “family” inside a Tokyo apartment complex, drawing vulnerable people into a web of control, violence, and dependency. When one victim escapes, the carefully constructed system collapses — revealing just how easily ordinary lives can be swallowed whole by the promise of belonging.

For readers of Emma Cline’s *The Girls*, Asako Yuzuki’s *Butter* and R.O. Kwon’s *The Incendiaries*.

### READERS’ REVIEWS

“It was scary, so I wanted to set aside time and read on. What is depicted many times in the work is the wall of police non-intervention in civil matters. No matter how serious the situation was, it was dismissed as a “family issue,” and victims were taken back to the place of offense — confronted with the fear of the reality that families would be a cover for violence”.

### READERS’ REVIEWS

“It is a terrifying novel that overturns the image of the word *family*”.

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**Aki Hamanaka** (1976) was born in Tokyo. His novel for young readers, *Raibaru (Rivals)*, received the Kadokawa Gakugei Children’s Literature Prize in 2009. In 2011 he contributed scripts for the popular manga series *Inu-bu! Bokura no shippo senki (Canine Club: Our Tales of Tails)* appearing in the *Shūkan shōnen sandē (Weekly Boys Sunday)* magazine. In addition to writing other manga scripts, he contributes articles to educational enrichment magazines. He won the Japan Mystery Fiction Prize for New Writers in 2012 for his novel *Rosuto kea (Lost Care)*.

# KYOKO HASUMI

## DOCTOR PEN

A heartwarming story about past emotions packed into magic fountain pens.



Tucked away down an atmospheric alley in Kobe, the tiny shop is the roost of owlishly wise Toma Fuyuki, who dispenses advice to his customers as he fixes their fountain pens. The motto of his store is: ***Fountain Pen Counseling will change your life.***

When it comes to repairing old pens, no one can compare with Toma. Simply looking at a pen is enough for him to grasp all the worries and difficulties of its owner, whom he gently guides towards a solution.

When unhappy university student Sawa Nonami takes a job as his assistant, she discovers the universe of eccentric fountain-pen aficionados whose lives intersect at his store. The experience will change her life in ways she could never have guessed.

Filled with fascinating details about fountain pen brands, designs, mechanisms, and inks along with plenty of reasons why these old-fashioned writing tools still matter today, this is a novel for pen lovers and for young people struggling to find their path in life.

### Rights sold

France (Bragelonne)  
Italy (Sperling & Kupfer)  
China

### EXCERPT

*Three days later, a car pulled up in front of Doctor Pen's shop.*

*"I believe I requested that the pen's owner come in person," Toma said. Sawa was confused... "I'm here, aren't I?" Reito asked, setting the cup he was holding in his left hand on the table. "No, I meant the person who has been using this pen," Toma answered. Reito froze. Toma opened a box he had set on the desk and took out the Waterman Edson pen. "Pardon my saying so, but I don't believe you are the one who has been using this fountain pen, Mr. Terada." Sawa watched nervously as Reito scowled.*

*"What are you implying?" he snapped. "If you're going to start making bizarre accusations, I'll take my business to another shop. There are plenty of other fountain pen repairmen around."*

*The instant Reito reached out his left hand, Toma drew the Edson near. "I believe this pen's owner is right-handed," he said. Reito stared in amazement at his own extended hand. "And that they have quite a distinctive way of using it," he added. Sawa could hear Reito gulp.*

*"The question of which hand is simple," Toma continued. "You can tell by looking at how the nib is worn down. Now, your order said the ink was coming out too fast. Excessive ink flow is caused when a pen is dropped or knocked, causing the tip to bend, or when this slit here that runs toward the tip widens." He pointed to the bottom of the nib. "If the person using the pen presses down hard when they write, it's common for the slit to widen. But that's not the reason you're having a hard time using this pen. To make it easier to explain, I have here another Edson."*

*Toma took a pen of the same make and model but a different color from the desk drawer. He slowly removed the cap, peered through his magnifying glass at the nib, and then set both on the tray.*

*"This is a Diamond Black Edson I borrowed from a customer. The nib width is F, fine. Take a look at the nib like I've just done." Reito hesitated to pick up the magnifying glass and pen. "Go ahead," Toma urged. Copying Toma's movements, Reito held the nib behind the magnifying glass, but had trouble bringing it into focus. Eventually, he seemed to succeed. "The nib you are looking at now is the standard model sold by the company. Keep that shape in mind. Now please look at the Edson nib that you brought in. I have done nothing to it since receiving it." Reito was silent. "Well? Do you notice that compared to the other pen, the nib is longer?"*

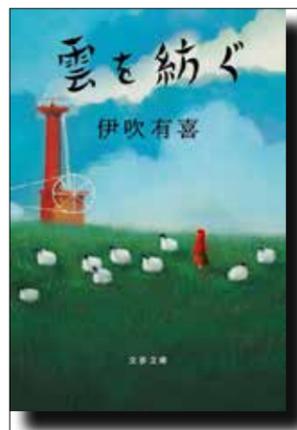
**Kyoko Hasumi** (1965) was born in Sakai, Osaka, and graduated from the Fine Arts Department of Osaka University of Arts. Her debut novel won the Excellence Award in the Yokomizo Seishi Mystery and Horror Prize in 2010. In 2020 she won the Osaka Book One Project.

# YUKI IBUKI

## SPINNING THE CLOUDS

EXCERPT

**Can a family on the verge of collapse be saved?  
A multigenerational tale portraying family bonds through  
the ancient art of wool spinning.**

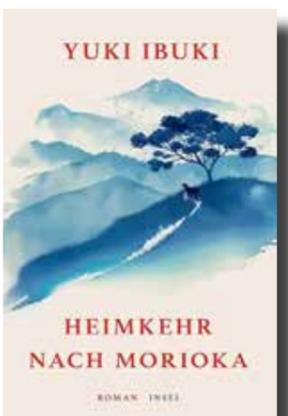


A cross-generational story that contrasts the incessant pressures of urban life with the practical challenges that confront a diffident teenager when she runs away from home to live with her grandfather in rural Japan. There, she learns how to work with wool. A red shawl, a treasured present from her late grandmother, becomes the key to untangling her emotions and bringing her estranged parents back together again.

This novel is sure to appeal to fans of ‘cosy fiction’, which has recently been a hugely popular genre of translated Japanese literature. The depiction of high schooler Mio’s struggles, and the empathy shown throughout the novel, is sure to strike a chord with fans of *Lonely Castle in the Mirror*, while the many who enjoyed *The Cat Who Saved Books* or *Days at the Morisaki Bookshop* will surely appreciate the themes of overcoming a difficult period and rediscovering joy in life.

In addition to the heartwarming storyline, the novel is a treasure trove for foreign readers with an interest in Japanese culture and arts as, through Mio, we learn about the ancient crafts of wool-spinning and dyeing. The crafts portrayed in Ibuki’s novel, born of a specific region and time, give the reader both an insight into the environments and ways of life of the people who created and developed them, and the story expresses a deep respect for the craftspeople who made them and passed them down to subsequent generations.

**This is an uplifting celebration of the traditional and tactile arts in an age of virtual reality, invoking both C.S. Lewis’s *Tales of Narnia* and Kenji Miyazawa’s *Night Train to the Stars*.**



### Rights sold

France (Albin Michel)  
Germany (Insel Verlag)  
Italy (Garzanti)  
Portugal (Presença SA)  
China, Vietnam

*Mio hurried back to her room and got into bed. Clutching the red shawl, she draped it over her head and closed her eyes. This never-ageing shawl was magical. When she was wrapped up in it, it felt to Mio like time stopped completely. Opening her eyes slightly, she touched the label sewn into one of its corners. ‘Yamazaki Studio’. The name of the artisanal workshop in Morioka, Iwate Prefecture, run by her paternal grandfather.*

*Her father and grandfather didn’t get on; Mio had heard that he hadn’t even been invited to her parents’ wedding. Still, Mio’s father had got in touch with him when she was born, and her grandparents brought the shawl with them when they travelled down to Tokyo for her hatsumiyamairi ritual. Everything looked harmonious enough in the photos taken that day, and you wouldn’t be able to tell, by looking at them, that her father and grandfather had fallen out. Mio’s favourite was a photo taken in the grounds of the shrine: her grandfather holding his first grandchild, bundled up in the red shawl, while her grandmother looked happily at Mio’s tiny face. When things were difficult at school, Mio felt a little lighter inside when she thought about that photo. It helped, knowing there had been someone this happy she’d been born.*

*She poked her head out of the shawl, reaching for her phone. There was another photo she loved: taken from the window of her grandfather’s workshop, showing the view from Yamazaki Studio. It looked like the kind of landscape you would see in a children’s picture book, and she had it set as her phone’s wallpaper. She turned to lie on her front, and stared at the photo on her phone screen: sheep grazing on green meadows streaked with sunlight, white clovers by their feet, and clusters of trees spread out along the back of the fields. A little pasture, in the middle of one of Iwate’s forests. Mio had found this photo online, in a blog about Iwate’s local crafts. It explained that Yamazaki Studio is an atelier creating ‘homespun textiles’ out of yarn which they make themselves by hand, from sheep’s wool. The fabrics made by Mio’s grandfather, Kojiro Yamazaki - called ‘Ko’s textiles’ - are said to infuse sunlight and weave in the winds, and were apparently hugely popular in the Showa era. The blog borrows snippets from Miyazawa Kenji poems to describe the view from the studio: referencing its ‘beautiful clean breezes’, the ‘pink blushes of morning sun’, and the ‘dreamland of Iwate’.*

*But Mio’s father never talked about his hometown, and nor had he ever taken her there. Mio put her phone away and lay down again, burying her face in the pillow. Her father had a long commute, which meant he left the house early every morning and didn’t get back until late. He’d stay in bed all day on the weekends, and even when they did see each other they didn’t have much to talk about. Still, looking at the photo of the trees from the studio window made Mio want to ask him about her*

**Yuki Ibuki** (1969) was born in Mie and graduated from Chuo University. After working for a publishing house, she made her literary debut in 2008. Her novels have won various prizes and have been made into films.

# TAKUJI ICHIKAWA

## BE WITH YOU

Over 3 million copies sold



FICTION

Publisher: Shogakukan Inc.

Publication: 2003

Pages: 264

Takumi, a single widowed father, struggles to raise his spirited and intelligent son, Yuji, while grappling with his own debilitating mental health challenges. Bound by a severe anxiety disorder, Takumi cannot venture far from home or use most vehicles without succumbing to paralyzing panic attacks, making their daily life a chaotic and melancholic bachelor existence.

Their world is turned upside down when, during a walk, they encounter Mio—Takumi's late wife—seemingly alive and whole, yet devoid of any memory of her past life. Despite her confusion, the physical resemblance is undeniable, down to the smallest details, and Takumi convinces her she is his wife. Overwhelmed with joy, he sets out to welcome Mio back into their lives, sharing the story of their poignant love and grappling with the surreal reality of her return.

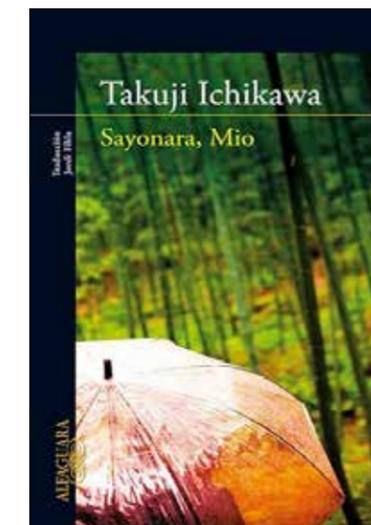
Mio's reappearance, however, is no ordinary miracle. Before her death, she had promised Takumi she would return during the rainy season to check on him and Yuji—though only briefly, disappearing again before the heat of summer. As the days pass, Takumi searches for answers, uncovering a deeply moving tale of love, fate, and the unbreakable bond that transcends even death.



2004 Japanese film  
directed by  
Nobuhiro Doi

### Rights sold

France (J'ai Lu)  
Italy (Adriano Salani)  
Netherlands (Contact)  
Portugal (Presenca SA)  
Spain (Alfaguara PRH)



Born in Tokyo in 1962, **Takuji Ichikawa** is a graduate of the Dokkyo University. His first novel, *Separation*, was published in 2002. *Be With You (Ima Ai ni Yukimasu)* was published in 2003 and became a huge hit in Japan. Other bestsellers he has written are *Ren-ai Shashin: Mou Hitotsu no Monogatari* (2003), and *Sono Toki Kare ni Yoroshiku* (2004).

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# KYOICHI KATAYAMA

## CRYING OUT LOVE IN THE CENTER OF THE WORLD



Kyoichi Katayama's *Crying Out Love From the Center of the World* depicts a sweet high school romance between an average guy and a beautiful girl.

Sakutarō and Aki are high school classmates. Their relationship blossoms from friendship to infatuation to a love whose depth belies their youth. But alas their dream is cut short before graduation by leukemia.

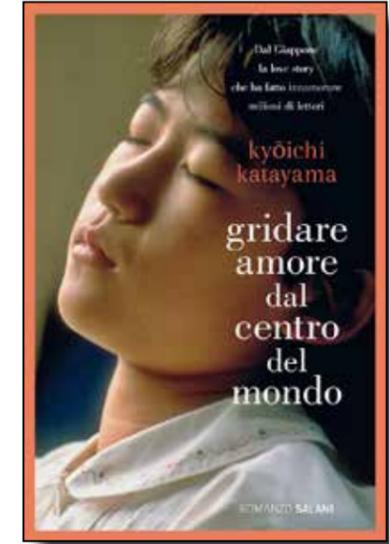
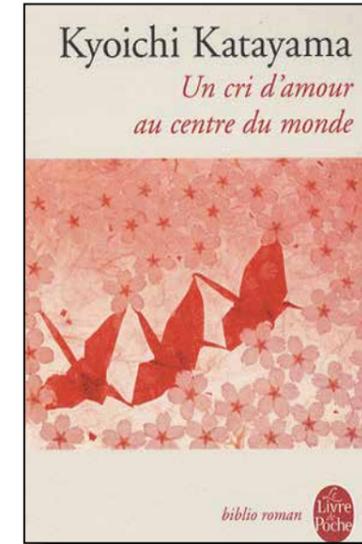
The story, told in retrospect by a still-young man trying to come to terms with his true love's death, evokes an aching pathos of loss from the very first page with a clarity and honest intimacy that draws readers immediately into the young lovers' world. The young protagonist is simultaneously dispassionate and deeply tender as he looks back on his experience with his discovery and then devastating loss of first love. Sakutarō's grandfather is a just and telling counterpoint to his own coming of age. Their conversations help bridge the gaps of generation and culture and help Sakutarō build a philosophy from his experience, and then transcend it.

The story closes with an act of devotion to the memory of Aki that will resonate with readers of all generations.

*Crying Love From the Center of the World* is a bittersweet journey of young love, enduring devotion, and heartbreaking loss. Affectionately known in Japan as Sekachu (short for Sekai no Chushin de Ai wo Sakebu), the incredible popularity of Katayama's novel developed into a social phenomenon in Japan and drove it to become one of the classic love stories of all time.

### Rights sold

Basque (Cenlit Ediciones)  
Brazil (OBJETIVA)  
France (Presses de la Cité)  
Hungary (Muvelt Nép Könyvkiadó Kft.)  
Italy (Salani)  
Poland (Grupa Wydawnicza Foksal)  
Russia (Azbooka-Atticus)  
Serbia (Vulkan Publishing)  
Spain (Plaza & Janés)



**Kyoichi Katayama** (1959) dropped out of Business school to write this novel, and he never went back. He is a master of Samurai Suard Martial Arts.

KEIYA MIZUNO

# THE ELEPHANT THAT MAKES DREAMS COME TRUE

A hugely successful 4-book series with 5.6 million copies sold  
No. 1 Amazon bestseller: over 16,800 readers



An ordinary office worker wallows in sorrow and self-pity after attending a party thrown by a senior co-worker. Surrounded by celebrities, top executives and other glamorous people, the protagonist is struck by the pettiness of his own existence. All he wishes for is happiness but no matter how many self-help books he reads, his goals never seem to get any closer.

Hopelessly drunk, the night of the party he cries out to a Hindu figurine brought back from a trip to India, “I want to change my life!” The next morning, a mysterious creature resembling Ganesha, the elephant-headed god of beginnings, appears at his bedside and promises to make his dreams come true in exchange for carrying out a series of small (but unconventional) tasks.

By setting out to achieve Ganesha’s small goals (polishing his shoes, stop eating when 80% full, going straight home after work without stopping on the way), the protagonist learns to cherish the present moment and stop worrying about manipulating the outcome of his actions. The first volume in the series of five self-help novels that took Japan by storm by reminding readers that perseverance and self-acceptance are the keys to real happiness.

## FICTION

Publisher: Bunkyoisha.  
First publication: 2007  
4-book series

*“I devoured all the self-help and business books out there, but they just made me lose confidence and drained what little self-esteem I had left... That’s what sparked the idea to write a book with a low entry barrier—something people could read and think, ‘I could try this right away.’ I feel uneasy about books written from the perspective of ‘I succeeded this way.’ As if the author is suddenly trying to show off. I want readers to feel this book has had a true impact on their lives when they finish it and return to reality. That’s how this format came about. I see this as a practical guide, aiming to provide readers with knowledge they can wield as a weapon to navigate real life.”*

**Keiya Mizuno Interview, Asahi Shimbun**

## BOOK INSTRUCTIONS

Starting from today, you are to accomplish one task a day that is set forth by Ganesha. Ganesha’s tasks are all able to be completed within a day. As mentioned, the tasks are not particularly difficult. But you will see that they have an immensely effective power that will drastically change your life.

By completing the tasks, you will be able to make all of your dreams and goals come true—from becoming richer, to having more fame, to accomplishing something that only you can do, to displaying the talent that you have at its maximum capacity. Ganesha’s lessons will lead you to success in everything you wish to be successful in.

At first glance, there will be some tasks that you will not see much point in doing. You may question yourself. You may feel that they are based on superstitions and not on something more reliable like scientific evidence.

Still, you must go through with every single task. As Ganesha also said, all of the great people we know in history have all accomplished many of these things. The key is that you must execute each that is given to you and experience the effects of success for yourself. If you end up not completing the tasks and dishonoring your contract, Ganesha will enforce the rules of the contract and deprive you of all your aspiration.

Now take a deep breath in, and let’s begin.

### Rights sold

Chinese (Simplified)  
Chinese (Traditional)  
Germany (Rowohlt)  
Korean, Mongolian, Russian, Thai

**Keiya Mizuno** is born in 1976 in Aichi Prefecture. Graduated from Keio University’s Faculty of Economics. Made his literary debut in 2003 with Techniques That Make People Laugh (Ukeru Gijutsu, Shinchosha). His other works include the Dream-Granting Elephant series, Life Is Meow-Tastic! and The Spartan Marriage Boot Camp (all from Bunkyoisha). He also plans and writes scripts for DVDs

SAKI MURAYAMA

## THE TWILIGHT CONVENIENCE STORE AND A CAT

The mysterious convenience store - the “Twilight Mart” - is said to be a place where you can find whatever you are most desperately searching for in life. Anything at all.



FICTION

Publisher: Poplar Publishing  
Publication: 2010-2024

### Rights sold

Germany (Bastei Luebbe AG)  
Hungary (Század Kiadó)  
Spain (Planeta Neko)

The tales are set in the fictional community of Kazahaya and center on a mysterious convenience store, known as the Twilight Mart, on the edge of town. Surrounded by legend, it is said to be reachable only by those who are searching for something out of some deep-seated need.

Each story tells about a different customer who visits the store. The clerk is a silver-haired, golden-eyed young man of mysterious mien, who, in spite of his eccentric appearance, has utter empathy for his customers.

### EXCERPT

*When the sun hangs low in the sky, go to the end of the shopping street in front of Kazahaya Station. There, you will find a mysterious convenience store on the old road with the red torii gate.*

*The wooden sign above the door says Twilight Mart, and unlike other stores, the letters are written in bright shiny red. Just below the sign is a crest, looking like an ear of rice.*

*When you open the door, you will be greeted by the sweet smell of freshly-made inari and the bubbling sound of oden. There at the register stands a young man with long silver hair and golden eyes, a smile on his face.*

*His slender eyes seem to sparkle, and it makes him seem a little scary. But he'll welcome you with a cheery and warm greeting.*

*“Welcome to our shop.*

*Is there something you're looking for?”*

*Anything you can wish for can be found right here inside this shop. But there are also things that wouldn't be sold anywhere else.*

*It is said that people in search will always find that special something here in this store.*

*This is Twilight Mart. A most mysterious and magical convenience store.*

# SAKI MURAYAMA

## THE MAGIC OF THE MALL

Over 110,000 copies sold  
Winner of the 2018 Booksellers Award in Japan



FICTION

Publisher: Poplar Publishing  
Publication: 2017  
Pages: 452

**A department store, a cat and a wish. It only takes a few ingredients to create a story that conveys serenity and zest for life.**

The most prestigious department store in Japan hides a secret, passed down through generations: a white cat capable of granting wishes roams its floors. If you happen to cross its path, your dreams become reality. But it is not easy to find him because he knows that many unfulfilled dreams await him.

Among those who are looking for him are: Isana, attendant of the big crystal lift, who would like to find her father who left when she was a child; Sakiko, owner of the shoe shop, who dreams of spending an evening with her best friend, with whom she has not spoken in years. The manager of the luxury department, Kengo, dreams that the white cat will tell him about the woman who abandoned him at birth, while Ichika, who manages the store's archive, hopes for nothing more than to be able to see herself again in the eyes of her lost love.

Everyone has a dream, a wish, a hope to entrust to the mysterious feline that lurks within the walls of the department store. Everyone has a painful past or a future that seems uncertain. The cat knows however that there is no joy without difficulty and sometimes just dreaming fervently for that dormant feeling to resurface brings happiness.

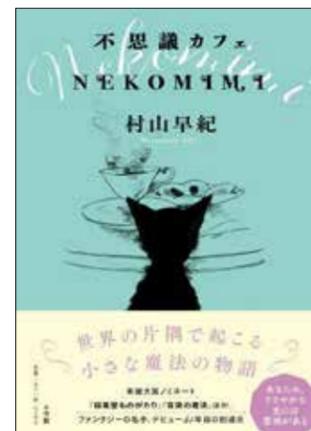
### Rights sold

France (Bragelonne)  
Italy (Garzanti)  
Portugal (Presença)  
Russia (AST Publishers)  
Korea, Thailand



# THE INCREDIBLE NEKOMINI CAFÉ

A 50-something woman and her black cat manage a unique coffee shop where she delights her customers by serving them food, tea, and magic spells.



FICTION

Publisher: Shogakukan  
Publication: 2023  
Pages: 296

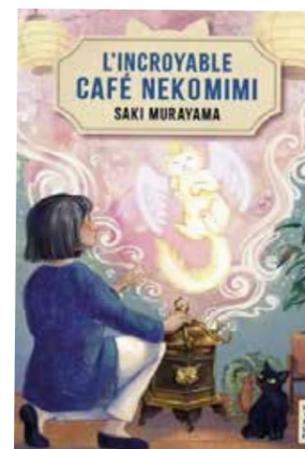
One day, Ritsuko finds a helpless black cat on the roadside. She takes the poor thing home and cures it, when suddenly, the cat speaks to Ritsuko. When she was a little girl, Ritsuko had a cat named Melody that died of an illness and the black cat is Melody reincarnated.

Ritsuko has an unusual lamp in her home, given to her by a fortune teller friend who told her that a “genie” lives in it. Half-jokingly, Ritsuko asks the lamp to cure her terrible headache and that is when she meets the lamp's genie. The genie then tells Ritsuko, “You are to pass away tonight. It cannot be undone.” Ritsuko accepts her fate, but Melody begs the genie to spare Ritsuko's life in exchange for the cat's. The genie agrees to spare both of them but on the condition they both become wizards.

Ritsuko summons a giant flying car with her magical abilities, and embarks on a journey with Melody and the genie. They open a magical coffee shop where they can grant people happiness.

### Rights sold

France (Bragelonne)  
Russia (Azbooka-Atticus Publishing)  
Korea



Born in Nagasaki, **Saki Murayama** (1963) made her literary debut with *Small Eri*, which won the Mainichi Children's Books Award and the 4th HatojuMuku Children's Books Award. *Magic of the Mall* was nominated for the Booksellers' Award in 2018.

# NORIKO ONUMA

## MIDNIGHT BAKERY

*Midnight Bakery*, a six book series written by Noriko Onuma, is a delightful blend of mystery, heartwarming moments, and a touch of the supernatural.

Over 1.2 million copies sold



**A widower, a baker, and a talented but foul-mouthed student work to provide refuge to lost and lonely souls through their magical pastries. But they have secrets too.**

The story unfolds in a quaint bakery that operates exclusively during the midnight hours- from 11 pm to 5am. This bakery is unlike any other—it caters to a unique clientele of outcasts with special requests and secrets.

The Midnight Bakery is a mysterious and magical bakery in Sangenjaya, open from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. when it offers refuge to troubled customers. It is a small, odd shop that is run by Kanjiro, the foul-mouthed baker, and owner Kurebayashi Yosuke, who suddenly went from high-flying salaryman to owner and apprentice of this newly started bakery after his wife's sudden death.

One night, a high school student called Nozomi suddenly turns up at The Bakery, claiming to be the younger sister of Kurebayashi's dead wife. Although doubtful, he lets her stay in the shop without questioning.

**This is the start of the numerous incidents that the three of them will find themselves embroiled in as other motley characters come and go in search of the solace that only the bakery and its pastries can provide.**

### Rights sold

France (Brageionne)  
Germany (Thiele Verlag)  
Italy (Garzanti)  
Spain (Ático de los Libros)  
US (HarperCollins)  
China, Korea, Taiwan

FICTION

Publisher: Poplar Publishing  
Publication: 2012-2018

**Noriko Oonuma** (1975) worked as a scriptwriter before entering the fiction arena by winning the 2005 Botchan Literary Award with *Ringling Out the Old Year and Ringling In the New*. She is one of Japan's up-and-coming writers.

# SHIORI OTA

## THE 4 MINUTE 33 SECOND COFFEE SHOP

EXCERPT

A coffee shop in Hokkaido that offers you one chance to time-travel and repair the past

4 Minutes and 33 seconds, the time it takes to make a coffee



The scent of coffee and the sound of an old clock invite you into this gentle, bittersweet time-travel fantasy. It is rumoured that at Tacet Evening Hall, a coffee shop in Hokkaido, a woman can take people into the past. And there, they can correct their biggest regret. An unsaid word, a wrong decision, a moment of distraction...

Who wouldn't want a chance to correct the past?

They only get one chance, a four-minute and thirty-three-second window while the coffee is brewing.

At the center of the novel is a Himari, a middle schooler who once had a brilliant future as a piano player, until an accident damaged her fingers. She learns that changing the past is not the only way to shape the future and that "If there were a perfectly written musical score for the future, we would probably not play it accordingly".

FICTION

Publisher: Bungeishunju  
Publication: 2023  
Pages: 288



### Rights sold

Bulgaria (Peppermill Books)  
France (City Éditions)  
Germany (Droemer)  
Hungary (Alexandra Group)  
Italy (Garzanti)  
Netherlands (The House of Books)  
Russia (Eksmo)  
US (HarperCollins)

*Ever since Himari Misaki was little, everyone had acknowledged her prodigious piano skills.*

*She'd studied music abroad in England but returned to Hokkaido following an injury. Now, she lives with her divorced mother and younger sister, Nanoka. Coming back and knowing she's failed everyone leaves Himari in a terrible mindset. She begins her first year of middle school a month late because of her recovery, but on her way to her first day there, a middle-aged woman in fancy clothing calls out to her.*

*"Use everyone's sympathy to your advantage. Just smile brightly, and it'll be fine," the woman reassures her.*

*On the way home, the same woman recommends her coffee filled with syrup and milk, and she tries it for the first time in her life. "How strange. It smells like flowers," she muses. It's then she learns about "Tacet Evening Hall", a beautiful coffee shop near the neighboring park, and its shopkeeper known as "the witch".*

*Encouraged, Himari thanks the woman and heads home. "I'll be fine tomorrow, too," she thinks. The next day, Himari searches for the woman, but she finds the woman's whole house has vanished. At that moment, Himari finds the Tacet Evening Hall near the park. "It's really here," she realizes, reading on its door that the café's "Opening Hours End at Sunset". Heavy door, polished wooden walls and floor, a stopped clock, pale dried flowers, and mugs decorating the shelves...*

*"Tacet" had been named after the musical term for a long rest.*

*A man named Kobayashi is in the shop. As he remembers his wife who died eight years ago, he is crushed by regret and guilt. His wife had asked him to buy her flowers for her birthday as they'd passed by a florist, but he'd refused out of embarrassment. His wife had died of an illness before her next birthday. He'd always loved her, he thinks, as he orders a second cup of coffee. The storekeeper prepares a French pressed coffee called "4'33" John Cage". The hot water drips in slowly, and the scent of coffee rises. Each drop of falling water resounds lower and slower. Kobayashi's consciousness fades away like the whirl of an old record set to play.*

*For those four minutes and thirty-three seconds, he time-travels and sees his wife in front of the florist's. "This is the second time you're buying me flowers. The first time was for our first date," she says.*

**Shiori Ota** was born in Sapporo, Hokkaido in 1978. In 2012, she made her debut with *There's a Corpse Buried Under Sakurako's Feet*, which she published on the novel submission website Everystar and won the Excellence Award in the Mystery Category of the Everystar Digital Book Awards.

# MAIKO SEO

## SOMEONE TO COOK FOR

This heartwarming story about a teenager in an unconventional family situation  
2019 Booksellers Award

Over a 1.5 million copies sold in Japan



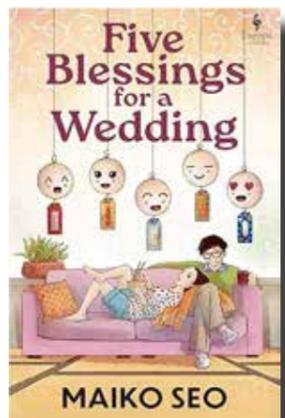
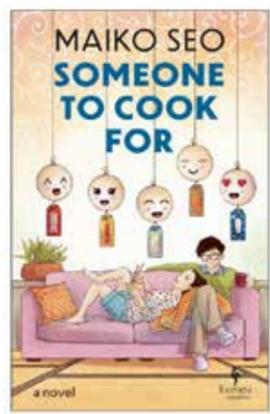
A light, humorous, amiably peopled, and tender novel about found families, the people who shape our lives, and the complexities of non-traditional family ties.

Yuko has had four different surnames and been brought up in several families. The parental figures in her life, despite not being related by blood, have always cared deeply for her. Through it all, pragmatic and resilient and Yuko has navigated life's changes and its occasional conflicts without bitterness, always managing to find a kind of equilibrium.

As an adult, Yuko falls in love with Hayase, a talented pianist she's known since her school years. Now a married woman, she embarks on a journey to reconnect with the various parental figures from her past to seek their blessing for her marriage. Along the way, she revisits her former life and the people in it and gains a deeper understanding of what truly defines a family.

FICTION

Publisher: Bungeishunju  
Publication: 2018  
Pages: 372



**Rights sold**  
Czech Republic (HOST)  
Italy (E/O)  
Poland (Helio Publishing)  
Russia (Azbooka-Atticus Publishing)  
Serbia (Vulkan Publishing)  
UK/US (Europa Editions)  
China, Indonesia, Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Ukraine, Vietnam

# ALL THE LONG NIGHTS

Life is tougher than we think, but there are rays of light all around us.  
This novel is one. Like a beacon of hope in the darkness,  
it makes living a little bit easier.



All the Long Nights is the story of two young people struggling to live a normal life with debilitating hidden illnesses. Illnesses, moreover, that are mired in stigma and misunderstanding, and not normally openly discussed. Twenty-eight-year-old Misa Fujisawa suffers from premenstrual syndrome and 25-year-old Takatoshi Yamazoe from panic disorder.

Both have lost jobs, friends and future dreams because of their conditions. But in the relaxed atmosphere of the small company where they work, they develop a camaraderie and bond of mutual support which lead to small changes that make a big difference, and open up hope for the future.

Written with humor, lightness and empathy, the text draws readers into the world of those live and work with a hidden or life-changing illness, offering hope on how to remain positive in the face of it. This is Maiko Seo's first novel to be published since her phenomenal bestseller *And So the Baton is Passed* won the Booksellers Award in 2019. It is based on her own experience of panic disorder.

FICTION

Publisher: Suirinsha  
Publication: 2020  
Pages: 272



**Rights sold**  
Italy (E/O)  
UK/US (Europe Edition)  
China, Indonegsia, Korea, Thailand, Taiwan, Ukraine, Vietnam

2024 Film directed by  
Sho Miyake

Maiko Seo (1974), born in Osaka. Her first novel, *Tamagono Cho* (Egg Cord) won the Botchan Literary Grand Prix in 2001. She won the 2005 EijiY oshikawa Literary Prize in the New Author category with *KofukunaShokutaku* (A Happy Dining Table) and the 2009 JojiTsubota Literary Prize with *TomuraHantenSeishun100 Renpatsumu* (Restaurant Tomuraand the Hundred Shots of Youth).

# DURIAN SUKEGAWA

## DIG OUT THE SUN



FICTION

Publisher: Poplar Publishing  
Publication: 2024

One morning, the sun disappeared. The world has been plunged into chaos. From her home, seventy-year-old Yoshie Tokumaru stared at the city wrapped in night.

Even before the disappearance of the sun, Yoshie's heart had lost its light. Her only son, Kentaro, had died of overwork. Yoshie closed the café that she'd remodeled the first floor of her house for. She didn't want to meet anybody.

Someone knocks on the café door. When Yoshie opens it, there stands a boy. He proclaims he is thirsty, so she lets him in and makes him a cumquat syrup drink. The boy says he has no parents. He doesn't offer a name. He insists he is on a journey to find the sun. Yoshie intends to find his guardians, so together they set out into the dark city.

### Rights sold

Finland (Sammakko Publishing)  
France (BrageLonne)  
Italy (Einaudi)  
Romania (Alice Books)  
Spain (Cántico)

## SWEET BEAN PASTE



FICTION

Publisher: Poplar Publishing  
Publication: 2013  
Pages: 239

2015 Japanese drama  
film directed by Naomi Kawase.

### Rights sold

Arabic (The Arab Cultural Center)  
Brazil (Morro Branco)  
Bulgaria (Colibri Publisher)  
Croatia (Hena com)  
Czech Republic (Dobrovský)  
Estonia (Postimehe Kirjastus)  
Finland (Sammakko Publishing)  
France (Albin Michel)  
Germany (DuMont Buchverlag GmbH)  
Hungary (Muvelt Nep Konyvkiado)  
Italy (Einaudi)  
Poland (Jagiellonian University)  
Portugal (Leya)  
Romania (Alice Books)  
Russia (MTS)  
Serbia (Vulkan Publishing)  
Spain (Chai Editora)  
UK/US (Oneworld Publications)  
China, Indonesia, Korea



## CATS OF SHINJUKU

### FICTION

Publisher: Poplar Publishing  
Publication: 2019  
Pages: 250

### Rights sold

France (Albin Michel)  
Germany (DuMont)  
Greece (Pedio Publishing SA)  
Italy (Einaudi)  
Poland (Yumeka)  
Portugal (Leya)  
Romania (Alice Books)  
Russia (Mann Ivanov and Ferber)  
Spain (Cántico)  
Thailand



## THE ISLAND OF PINZA

### FICTION

Publisher: Poplar Publishing  
Publication: 2014  
Pages: 340

### Rights sold

France (Albin Michel)  
Germany (DuMont)  
Italy (Einaudi)



## JOHNSON THE CROW

### FICTION

Publisher: Poplar Publishing  
Publication: 2018  
Pages: 259

### Rights sold

Arabic Lebanon (The Arab Cultural)  
France (Albin Michel)



## BUDDHA ON THE WATERSIDE

### FICTION

Publisher: Poplar Publishing  
Publication: 2019  
Pages: 317

### Rights sold

Italy (Einaudi)  
Portugal (Leya)  
Spain (Cántico)  
UK/US (Oneworld Publications)

Durian Sukegawa studied oriental philosophy at Waseda University, before going on to work as a reporter in Berlin and Cambodia in the early 1990s. He is a director in the Japan P.E.N. Club and Head of the Children's Book Committee. He's also a poet, spoken-word performer, singer-songwriter, public speaker, and television and radio personality.

# NAHOKO UEHASHI

## KOKUN

### The Woman that Could Hear Scents

**In this high fantasy, a young girl uses her ability to understand scent-based communication between plants and animals to fight widespread food shortages.**



Long ago, a living goddess from another world brought to the Umar Empire a miraculous grain, resistant to all pests and disease. Under the guidance of her successors, who are revered as the Kokun, the empire expanded and prospered by spreading cultivation to new territories. While the grain was far more nourishing than other crops, it became a monoculture wherever it was planted, carrying within it the seeds of a disaster that would manifest generations later.

Aisha is a young woman from a vassal state on the edge of the empire. She is gifted with the ability to intuit what plants and living creatures are experiencing by reading their scent. When Aisha's grandfather falls from power as the state's ruler, Aisha is rescued by Mashu, a government official who sends her to work with the current Kokun, the beautiful Orié. Several years later, swarms of mysterious insects descend upon Umar's grain. Famine looms, threatening the balance of power. Aisha, Orié and Mashu race to uncover the secret of the grain and save their people.

#### Rights sold

Arabic (THQF)  
Bulgaria (Peppermill Books Ltd)  
France (Actes Sud)  
Hungary (Európa Könyvkiadó)  
Italy (E/O)  
Spain (Monogatari Media Editorial)  
UK/US (Europe Editions)

#### FICTION

Publisher: Bungeishunju  
Publication: 2022  
Volume One: 440 pages  
Volume Two: 464 pages

From Japan's greatest fantasy writer – who has proven that the best fantasies don't always involve magic in works including *The Beast Player*, *Moribito: Guardian of the Spirit*, and *The Deer King* – an ambitious novel which both brings her specialist subjects of biodiversity and the natural world to the fore, while introducing new motifs of scent and agriculture. Uehashi 'takes subjects like "smell", which are difficult to put into words, and renders them in beautiful prose'

The author 'has created a world with incredible precision, including around political and economic systems, landscape and local details', and paints a picture of what happens when people try recklessly to tame the environment, and their hopelessness and inability to do anything when the natural world bares its fangs. This is 'reminiscent of our own arrogance and fragility' and thus highly relevant to people in our own world, facing environmental and economic issues. In addition, this novel doesn't just rely on its protagonist's special abilities, but emphasises the power of people's collective wisdom and creativity in solving problems, and is 'a tale of searching for both light and darkness in all living things, and the light of hope in flexible and changing life cycles.'

**This epic fantasy is both a tale of biodiversity and the coming-of-age story of Aisha, a young girl exiled from her hometown, who has the extraordinary ability to understand the communication between insects and plants using her sense of smell. A wide-ranging story, drawing on allelopathy to depict the workings of ecosystems of which humans are a part, and touching on plague, food shortage, and environmental destruction.**

**Nahoko Uehashi** is Japan's most acclaimed Fantasy writer – winner of awards including the Hans Christian Andersen Literature Award (2014), the Japan Bookseller's Award, and a Michael L. Printz Award (2020). Her books have sold more than 11.5 million copies in Japan, been made into comics, animated series, a live action television series, and a radio play. Many of her children's works have been translated and published overseas.

# EIKO YAMAGUCHI

## THE GHOST OF IZAKAYA

8 volume series  
Over 177,000 copies sold



### FICTION

Publisher: Bungeishunju Ltd.  
Publication: 2021  
Pages: 256

### Rights sold

China (Crown Publishing)  
Korea (Moonye Publishing)

A tavern where spirits and ghosts reside - The izakaya is a psychic waiting room — a place where troubled souls (both living and dead) stop by to settle unfinished emotions.

Each dish (e.g., celery and shirataki stir-fry with yuzu-kosho, sake-steamed salmon with plum-sesame sauce) acts as a medium between the living and the dead. Cooking becomes a ritual because “Food carries memory. When we eat something we once shared with someone, we meet them again.” After eating, talking, or forgiving someone (including themselves), they leave — lighter — and the shop seems to fade again.

**The tavern is owned by Akiho, who doesn't seem to realize that she herself is dead.**

Each episode introduces a different guest-customer carrying personal trouble, and offered meals, conversation, and a kind of counselling by proxy.

With each story, we see how food, listening, and human warmth help the guest. Underneath it all, a supernatural framework emerges.

1. The Ghost of Izakaya
2. Spicy Sea Bream
3. Photo Exhibition and Croquettes
4. Cheers with Fried Chicken!
5. Edamame and the Seeker
6. Twins Dumplings
7. Pasta in Full Bloom
8. Beware of Mushrooms

**Eiko Yamaguchi** is a Japanese novelist known for warm, food-centered human dramas and cozy culinary mysteries. A graduate of Waseda University, she made her literary debut in 2013 after winning the Matsumoto Seichō Award for New Novelists with *Moonlit Shanghai*.

Her stories are cherished for their vivid, mouth-watering food descriptions, gentle humor, and empathetic portrayals of everyday life. Blending love advice, life insights, and comforting resolutions, her books leave readers with a pleasant aftertaste and a reassuring sense of calm.

Focusing on themes such as food and personal bonds, women's lifestyles, and pride in one's work, Yamaguchi has earned a broad and loyal readership. Representative works include *The Ghostly Izakaya* series and *The Canteen Lady*. Her fiction offers a relaxing, kindness-filled escape—perfect for a quiet break in daily life.

# YUKIHISA YAMAMOTO

## THE LITTLE TOKYO FLOWER SHOP

The novel unfolds episodically, with the symbolic meanings of flowers serving as a central theme.

**“WHERE FLOWERS BLOOM, SO DOES HOPE.”**

**Over 100,000 copies sold**



At 24, Kikuko is emotionally and physically drained from the demands of her job. Lost and uncertain about her future, she stumbles upon the Kawarazaki Flower Shop, a small but vibrant store tucked away behind Kuramae Station.

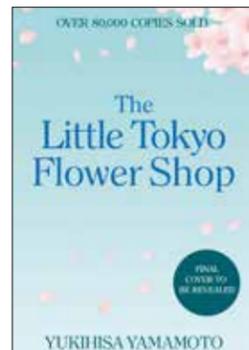
There, she meets Rita, a warm and enigmatic florist, and a group of unique coworkers who welcome her into their world of blooms and quiet miracles. As Kikuko learns the language of flowers, she also begins to understand the unspoken emotions of the customers who visit the shop, some seeking joy, others carrying quiet sorrow.

Through these encounters, Kikuko slowly starts to heal, rediscovering her own dreams and the small joys that make life beautiful.

FICTION

Publisher: Poplar  
Publishing  
Publication: 2022  
Pages: 315

**A heartfelt novel told through eight interconnected stories, *The Little Tokyo Flower Shop* is a celebration of resilience, kindness, and the quiet strength of flowers and those who love them.**



### Rights sold

Arabic (Dar Shafaq)  
Brazil (Editora Arqueiro)  
Croatia (Znanje)  
Denmark (Gyldendal)  
France (Albin Michel)  
Germany (Fischer Verlag)  
Greece (Pedio Publishing S.A.)  
Hungary (Európa Könyvkiadó Kft)  
Italy (Garzanti)  
Netherlands (Meulenhof Boekeriej)  
Poland (Spoleczny Instytut/Znak)  
Portugal (Planeta)  
Romania (Editura Univers)  
Russia (Bombora)  
Serbia (Laguna)  
Spain (Neko)  
Turkey (Destek)  
UK/US (Hodder and Stoughton)  
Ukraine (Vivat)

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# STARTING OVER AT THE LITTLE TOKYO FLOWER SHOP

The long-awaited second novel following the bestseller *The Little Tokyo Flower Shop*, which has sold over 100,000 copies.



Midori is an art student in Tokyo who already knows her way around a flower shop—how to trim stems just right, how to wrap a bouquet so it feels like a promise. Day after day at Kawarazaki Florist, she helps mark other people’s love stories and turning points, even as she wonders when her own life will finally come into bloom.

She loves painting, but in a city bursting with talent, her future feels hazy. When a hoped-for job with an art supplies company wilts during the pandemic, Midori stays at the shop, unsure whether she’s growing or simply standing still. Around her, coworkers bloom at their own pace: a designer gaining recognition, a former idol still searching for light, a quiet boy who understands flowers better than words.

FICTION

Publisher: Poplar  
Publishing  
Publication: 2026  
Pages: 323

As customers arrive with bouquets for confessions, apologies, and goodbyes, Midori begins to see how flowers hold feelings people can’t quite say. Petal by petal, she returns to painting, capturing the gentle poetry of everyday Tokyo—and realizing that not knowing yet doesn’t mean she’s failed.

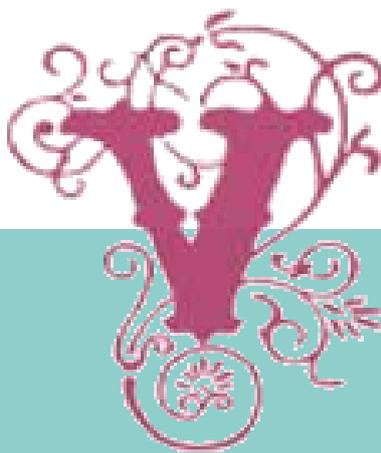
**A warm, feel-good story about timing, creativity, and trusting that even when life feels paused, growth is still happening—just beneath the surface.**

### Rights sold:

Germany (Fischer Verlag)  
Greek (Pedio)  
Netherlands (Meulenhof)  
Poland (Spoleczny Instytut Wydawniczy Znak Sp. z.o.o.)  
Portugal (Planeta)  
Serbian (Laguna)  
UK/US (Hodder & Stoughton)

**Yukihiisa Yamamoto**, born in Tokyo in 1966, made his literary debut in 2003 after winning the Shosetsu Subaru New Writers’ Award (Shueisha) for *Warau Manekineko* (*A Beckoning Cat Laughs*).

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